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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

On 21 December 2001, by its resolution 56/216 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the General Assembly acknowledged the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning and preventive diplomacy, including through the activities of the High Commissioner for National Minorities, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and arms control and disarmament. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to it at its fifty-seventh session. The present report reviews cooperation between the United Nations system and OSCE since the last report on the question, of 29 June 2001 (A/56/125).

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I. Consultations and exchanges of information

1. During the past year, the Secretary-General has had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and with its Secretary-General. In February 2002, the annual high-level tripartite meeting of the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe took place in Strasbourg, France, and was preceded by a target-oriented meeting on confidence-building measures in South-East Europe. The United Nations attended the OSCE ministerial meeting in Bucharest.

II. Information received from the United Nations system and others

A. United Nations Secretariat

1. Department of Political Affairs

2. The Department of Political Affairs met in December 2001 with an OSCE delegation led by the Director of its Conflict Prevention Centre. Issues of mutual concern discussed included counter-terrorism, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The importance of information-sharing was highlighted in these meetings, especially in light of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in Europe. It is anticipated that such sessions will become an established practice. As a follow-up to the 2001 fourth high-level conference with heads of regional organizations, OSCE participated in a working-level meeting in April 2002 in New York on cooperation in conflict prevention and peace-building. In this context, the Department organized and chaired a separate meeting between OSCE and interested partners within the United Nations system. Issues such as the need to think about integrated approaches to peace operations, including peace-building, were discussed at the regional organizations' meeting. In an effort to establish close cooperation and a coordinated approach to combating terrorism, on 12 June 2002, the Department participated in the high-level conference on preventing and combating terrorism, held in Lisbon.

2. Department for Disarmament Affairs

3. The Conventional Arms Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs participated in a workshop on the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, organized by the Forum for Security Cooperation of OSCE in Vienna. Participation in this event represented a major step towards deepening cooperation on issues related to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, following the adoption of the Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in July 2001. At the workshop, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the Department agreed to cooperate on facilitating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference as well as to share relevant information, particularly for the operation of an international database, to be developed and managed by the Department, that would incorporate information on all global activities devoted to the Programme of Action.

3. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

(a) United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

4. The United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) continues to cooperate closely with OSCE on matters of mutual concern, in particular the pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. To this end, OSCE participates in the United Nations-led Geneva peace process mechanisms, such as the Coordinating Council and the three working groups operating under its auspices. UNOMIG regularly briefs visiting OSCE delegations on the latest developments in the conflict settlement process. A large group of heads of OSCE delegations, led by the Chairman of the Permanent Council, met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia on 13 October 2001 to explore possibilities for further collaboration. UNOMIG frequently consults with the OSCE Mission to Georgia on matters related to the implementation of the recommendations of the report on the joint assessment mission to the Gali district, in which OSCE took an active part. Of particular common interest is the proposed establishment of a branch of the United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, in the Gali district, which would operate on the same basis and modalities as its parent office in Sukhumi.

5. Particularly noteworthy is the ongoing cooperation within the framework of the Human Rights Office which was established in 1996 as an integral part of UNOMIG. This cooperation is based on a memorandum of understanding, signed on 29 April 1997 between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and OSCE. According to the memorandum of understanding, OSCE contributes one officer who works in the Human Rights Office under the authority of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The joint human rights objectives of the United Nations and OSCE are to promote respect for human rights, protect the human rights of the population of Abkhazia, contribute to a safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons through improvement of the human rights situation, and report on human rights developments in conformity with United Nations and OSCE practices. The Human Rights Office regularly meets with the OSCE Human Dimension Office in Tbilisi in order to exchange information and experiences in the field of human rights and the development of a civil society.

6. In 2001 and 2002, the Human Rights Office has been facilitating, with the financial support of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, the implementation of projects aimed at promoting human rights standards through educational activities and capacity-building exercises for local law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, the mass media and higher educational establishments. One such initiative was a series of six round-table seminars which were organized in different regions of Abkhazia within the framework of a project entitled "Women — Leaders in Modern Society", implemented by the Abkhaz Women's Association. The seminars gathered women's organizations, students, intellectuals, members of the de facto Parliament, local authorities, and journalists with the objective of raising awareness of women's rights in Abkhazia and enhancing the role of women in public life. In addition, weekend courses on human rights, for approximately sixty children from the northern part of Abkhazia, were organized for the second year by the local non-governmental organization, the Youth Centre, in Gagra city. The objective was to promote civil and political rights among children, using interactive teaching methods and role play combined with conflict resolution techniques.

(b) United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

7. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) works closely with OSCE on human rights, trial monitoring, judicial reform and the implementation of property legislation. Under the new coordination mechanisms, UNMIBH works in a cooperative partnership with OSCE and other international organizations on the three Task Forces for Return and Reconstruction, Institution-Building, and Rule of Law. UNMIBH and OSCE are also key members of the Regional Judicial Reform Working Group (chaired by the Independent Judicial Commission) which addresses the issue of disciplinary action to be taken against unsuitable judges. The Criminal Justice Advisory Unit of UNMIBH also coordinates with OSCE on tracking criminal cases throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OSCE Human Rights Office chairs the Human Rights Working Group, which is a component of the task force on the rule of law. In this forum, UNMIBH contributes to issues pertaining to the monitoring of trials and juvenile justice. It cooperates with OSCE on specific classes of cases, particularly those pertaining to the trafficking of women and return-related violence. The UNMIBH Human Rights Office works closely with OSCE on a broad range of issues relating to the implementation of property laws and verification of the safe return of people to their pre-war properties. UNMIBH has also participated in Stabilization Force and OSCE-led meetings on downsizing entity armed forces.

8. While cooperation with OSCE has been generally productive in the areas of human rights and property issues in the field, at times there has been a problem of competing priorities and competencies. The difficulty of coordination between the five major international organizations working in Bosnia and Herzegovina stems largely from the lack of a comprehensive plan that "prioritizes the priorities" of the five organizations and unites them in a single strategic vision. This is even more important when international financial resources are diminishing and local resources are insufficient to sustain all the different institutions that each international actor considers to be vital to its own programme. The lesson learned is that international organizations need to coordinate at the strategic level before launching individual initiatives that compete for scarce resources.

(c) United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

9. OSCE is one of the four pillars of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in charge of institution-building in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this regard, UNMIK became the first joint operation in which regional actors worked together under the United Nations umbrella.

10. Elections remain a major area of close cooperation between UNMIK and OSCE. Cooperation with the UNMIK Directorate of Administrative Affairs secures the creation of final voters' lists for both central and municipal elections. UNMIK Regional Administrators provide logistical support for the local electoral management bodies (Municipal Election Commissions) to undertake their duties effectively. The Central Civil Registry is further updating voters' residency data, and people with incorrect data are being directed to the Municipal Civil Registration Centres so that they can amend their civil record. This effort directly affects access to the electoral process and avoids the disenfranchisement of minority groups with regard to the forthcoming municipal elections. This will enable OSCE to create the voters list which is essential for administering the municipal elections scheduled for October 2002.

11. UNMIK and OSCE have also been collaborating on developing independent and sustainable private and public media in Kosovo through the establishment of the Temporary Media Commissioner, an ad hoc regulatory body, and the drafting of a regulation establishing an Independent Media Commission.

12. OSCE has regularly participated in weekly Civil Administration inter-pillar meetings. OSCE field representatives attend most of the formal meetings of the Municipal Assemblies and the Boards of Directors in the municipalities. They are also invited to participate in ad hoc bodies and special meetings. There is close coordination between the Local Community Officers and OSCE representatives on various minority issues relating to human rights, minority property matters and the establishment and functioning of the Communities and Mediation Committees in the Municipalities and their capacity-building. In the area of training, the policy of the Kosovo Civil Service has been defined with the adoption of a training policy paper for the next three years. OSCE has also provided training for Kosovar civil servants at the central and municipal levels, with specific focus on legal issues, the management of human resources, public finance and procurement and budgeting, as well as sponsoring for local and overseas training courses in specific sectors such as transport and communications. The Civil Administration actively consulted with OSCE in the drafting of the Essential Labour Law for Kosovo, which was finally promulgated in October 2001. OSCE supports the establishment of the Kosovo Institute of Public Administration which builds upon the OSCE-created Institute for Civil Administration.

13. With regard to the police and justice pillar, OSCE is in permanent contact with the Department of Justice on implementing recommendations set forth in the latest report of the Legal Systems Monitoring Section. The Department of Justice and OSCE have also collaborated in the implementation of the six-month judicial review, the monitoring of judicial proceedings, particularly in sensitive cases of an ethnic nature, and in the drafting of UNMIK regulations. OSCE plays an important role in the creation by the Department of Justice of a victim advocacy and assistance unit. OSCE continues to operate the Kosovo Judicial Institute which trains local as well as international judges and prosecutors on issues such as organized crime, trafficking, narcotics and juvenile justice. While Kosovo Police Service officers are recruited by UNMIK, OSCE provides their training as well as training for Kosovo Correctional Service officers at the Kosovo Police Service School. So far, more than 1,000 local correctional officers have been trained (many from minorities). The Office of Community Policing has cooperated with OSCE on a number of issues, including training, programme development and working-group studies. A domestic/dating anti-violence programme began as a joint UNMIK and OSCE project in the Podujevo Municipality. The plan, which is in a "train-the-trainers" format with eventual classroom instruction of secondary school students, is now at the regional implementation stage in Pristina, with the objective of ultimately running the programme in every region. There have also been monthly meetings with senior officials of OSCE. A Human Rights Oversight Committee and Working Group, for which OSCE acts as secretariat and which gathers all UNMIK pillars, has been established to mainstream human rights in UNMIK policy. OSCE participates in the Joint Advisory Council for Legislative Matters, a

body set up by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo in order to guarantee legislative input from local professionals and international actors.

14. As for the reconstruction and economic development pillar, OSCE supports elections to the workers' councils of socially owned enterprises. The councils constitute the management boards of these firms, and OSCE has provided assistance with the organization of elections to the councils.

4. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

15. OSCE, which has actively contributed to the preparation and launching of the Fribourg Process on regional cooperation and coordination in crisis management, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is an important counterpart for the Office in addressing this issue in regional and subregional fora, such as institutions of the European Union, the Inter-State Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Central European Initiative, the South-Eastern European Defence Ministerial, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Partnership for Peace events. In the framework of the Fribourg Forum follow-up activities, consultations are ongoing on further cooperation on the utilization of respective field crisis-management tools, such as the OSCE Rapid Expert Assistance and Cooperation Teams and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team/Military and Civil Defence Assets systems of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The latest developments on policy and field cooperation in humanitarian action were also raised and reviewed by the United Nations delegation at the high-level tripartite consultations between OSCE, the Council of Europe and the United Nations that took place in Strasbourg on 7 and 8 February 2002.

16. At the field level, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and OSCE have recognized the need for increased coordination and formalized information sharing, including with non-governmental organizations, working in the Caucasus. In particular, joint United Nations and OSCE efforts to sustain humanitarian action relating to the repatriation of Chechen refugees from Georgia to the Russian Federation and Ossetian refugees from North Ossetia (Russian Federation) to South Ossetia (Georgia) are considered to be essential. In the same context, the Office and OSCE are also discussing possible cooperation for ensuring coordinated high-profile advocacy and operational support required to grant access for humanitarian organizations to the Caucasus.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

17. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Secretary-General and Chairman-in-Office of OSCE and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe continue to hold annual high-level meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern, both at the level of headquarters and in the field. The European Union/European Commission is now affiliated with this "tripartite" process, and participates at a senior level on a basis now referred to as "tripartite plus". In identifying themes for target-oriented discussion, traditionally held at expert level with an emphasis on practical issues, priority is given to areas in which the United Nations, Council of Europe and other "tripartite plus" partners are working together in post-conflict situations.

18. The United Nations Office at Geneva and OSCE maintain excellent bilateral relations and the Secretary-General of OSCE visited Geneva in May 2002. The United Nations Office at Geneva also liaises informally with the Offices of the High Commissioners for Human Rights and Refugees, the Geneva branch of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to promote, where possible, a collaborative approach to the OSCE secretariat. OSCE has been invited to participate in activities of the informal network linking the United Nations research and training institutes based in Geneva and Turin.

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. Cooperation with regional organizations, including with OSCE, is central to the regional strategy for Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In 2001 and 2002, the Office intensified its cooperation with OSCE in a number of substantive areas and geographic regions. The High

Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights formalized arrangements by an exchange of letters in May 2002 to expand the nature and depth of collaboration in countries of Europe, Central Asia and North America. They appointed senior and working-level contact points, with the task of determining priorities and reviewing accomplishments on a semi-annual basis, and providing continuous liaison and cooperation in priority areas. Highlighted areas of cooperation include the issue of human rights and terrorism, technical assistance programmes in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, human rights training throughout the region, and the strengthening of national human rights institutions and the office of ombudsman.

20. The Regional Adviser for Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus of the High Commissioner for Human Rights conducted several meetings with OSCE representatives in Vienna, Warsaw and in the field between October 2001 and May 2002, with a view to strengthening inter-office cooperation and identifying priorities in joint strategic planning.

21. In November 2001, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe issued a joint statement on human rights and terrorism. They urged that measures to eradicate terrorism should not lead to excessive curbs on human rights, and stressed that some rights may not be derogated from in any circumstances. The statement called on all States to ensure that measures restricting human rights in response to terrorism strike a fair balance between legitimate national security concerns and fundamental freedoms, consistent with their commitments under international law. The three organizations offered technical assistance to States that are developing legislative responses to terrorism.

22. The Office of the High Commissioner works with OSCE as well as the Council of Europe and other organizations in the Gender Task Force and the Trafficking Task Force of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Objectives of cooperation include the development of a common regional approach and the promotion of legal frameworks to prevent trafficking and provide protection to victims. OHCHR has also participated in a number of human dimension meetings organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. OSCE took an active role in events leading up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, including through participation in meetings at the European level in the lead-up to the Conference.

23. The Office of the High Commissioner coordinates closely with OSCE field missions in Europe and Central Asia. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, it works with OSCE field presences in policy development, human rights monitoring and human rights awareness activities. In Belgrade, consultations between OHCHR, OSCE and the Council of Europe have resulted in joint strategic support to the establishment of a national human rights institution. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, OHCHR conducts ongoing consultations with the OSCE Police Development Unit in its work aimed at promoting and strengthening cooperation between civil society and the police. In Croatia, the Office has consulted with the OSCE field mission on the formulation and implementation of its exit strategy. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it works closely with OSCE in relation to the human rights aspects of the rule of law pillar created by the Peace Implementation Council, as well as on issues such as trafficking in human beings and measures to promote employment. OSCE invited OHCHR to participate in a working-level meeting of its missions in south-east Europe, held in Sarajevo in June 2002.

24. The Office of the High Commissioner seeks to coordinate and implement its country activities with OSCE missions elsewhere in the region, including in the southern Caucasus and the five countries of Central Asia. Inter-agency consultations on developments in Chechnya, Russian Federation, take place on a regular basis between OSCE, the Council of Europe, OHCHR and other organizations. OSCE field missions provided valuable support and advice to a subregional needs assessment mission to Central Asia carried out by the Office in spring 2002. It is expected that any future OHCHR activities in Central Asia will emphasize close coordination with OSCE field presences.

D. Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

25. Cooperation between the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and OSCE has increased

substantially since OSCE began to give a higher priority to the issues of illicit drugs, organized crime, and terrorism, which are serious threats to security and stability in Europe. Areas of cooperation range from drug control, combating international terrorism, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings and trafficking in explosives and small arms, to participation in respective and joint meetings and workshops, common situation reviews and the development of joint activities.

26. In order to address the latest developments in the Central Asian region and beyond, the Office, jointly with OSCE, convened in Bishkek in late 2001 the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening the Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism. The Conference resulted in a Declaration and a Programme of Action requesting both organizations to enhance synergy and coordination in providing technical assistance. As a follow-up, the Office and OSCE developed a proposal to organize national workshops in five Central Asian States on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The proposal is being presented to the Governments of those States as well as to potential donors.

27. Both organizations, since they are based in Vienna, have increased participation in their respective meetings on subjects of mutual interest such as drug trafficking and organized crime in the Balkan region, preparation for the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the Vienna Symposium on combating terrorism. Outside headquarters, contributions to and participation in respective events have been strengthened. Wherever possible, the Office will carry out some of its technical assistance activities in the area of strengthening the legal regime against international terrorism with OSCE. With the objective of improving stability in the Balkan region, possibilities for joint activities in the fields of intelligence systems and cross-border regional cooperation have been discussed with OSCE.

E. Economic Commission for Europe

28. A Common Catalogue of Cooperation Modalities between the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and OSCE has been created by the two organizations as a way to strengthen their cooperation. A synthesis of the catalogue is to be posted on each organization's web site. Cooperation has developed through ECE participation in OSCE activities in the economic dimension, the preparation of review documents, papers and economic analyses for the annual OSCE Economic Forum, provision of a platform for strategic thinking on the role of economic factors in conflict, and training of government officials in conflict prevention. The Commission participates in the annual high-level tripartite meetings organized in turn by OSCE, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Office at Geneva. It also attends consultations between the United Nations and regional organizations, which are intended to strengthen cooperation and coordination on conflict prevention. With a view to improving the organizational structure, and without prejudice to the functions of the Economic Forum, an Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council has been established by OSCE. The Commission attends meetings of the Subcommittee to inform members of progress and to discuss new proposals for cooperation.

29. Monitoring and implementation by ECE of commitments made by OSCE participating States in the economic dimension includes macroeconomic analysis and data published in the annual economic survey, data on the implementation of ECE conventions relevant to conflict prevention, and legal developments in the fields of property and business laws.

30. In the area of early warning and early response, a key challenge is to develop cooperation in ways that can have an impact on preventing conflict in the region. Indicators of imminent violence include factors in the economic dimension, such as discrimination against ethnic and minority groups in the labour market or restrictions regarding access to natural resources. Other threats include risks from terrorist attacks on infrastructure or strategic facilities. Modalities of cooperation include meetings of ECE and OSCE expert groups and channelling information on threats picked up by the business community and non-governmental organizations, since they are often the first to be aware of conflicts, and disruptions to business are often an early-warning signal. The Commission and OSCE have also organized a training programme for government officials on conflict prevention, in cooperation with the United Nations Staff College. In order to examine the new threats to security in the economic dimension and how to respond to them, the ECE and OSCE jointly organized an informal meeting of experts in November

2001 in Villars, Switzerland. A second event could focus on the contribution of the business community in security-enhancing actions, such as fighting illegal trade and strengthening institutions, transparency and good governance. In the area of information exchange, ECE and OSCE have agreed to inform each other in good time of all events relating to the economic dimensions of security. OSCE participating States will also receive copies of ECE publications, notably the annual economic survey.

31. On the environment, OSCE and the Commission hold joint seminars to help in the ratification and implementation of the Aahrus Convention. OSCE and ECE are initiating the development of standard modules for the promotion of the Convention. OSCE is committed to supporting actively the "Environment for Europe" process, especially with regard to the component dealing with water, environment and security in Central Asia. OSCE is also promoting among local players and donors the ECE Environmental Programme for South Caucasus.

F. United Nations Development Programme

32. There has been a significant step forward in terms of strengthening and institutionalizing the cooperative relationship the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had already been nurturing with OSCE at the country level. A first annual meeting of the OSCE secretariat, United Nations Headquarters and UNDP took place in December 2001, which brought senior-working-level officials of both institutions to agree, inter alia, on the facilitation of information flow at the headquarters level, increased cooperation on strategic issues such as small arms and light weapons, and mutual invitations to regional-level meetings. There was a special visit to New York by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, aimed at establishing the framework for cooperation in the region. Informal visits and exchange of information have continued as well.

33. Small arms reduction is one of the strategic areas in which UNDP has explored successfully ways of concrete cooperation with OSCE. Through closer contacts at all levels of its work on small arms reduction, UNDP has made a significant contribution to the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, particularly in promoting its agenda on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation under section V of the Document. The ongoing development of a roster of experts, joint launch with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe of the regional small arms clearing house, in Belgrade, and programme developments in Albania and Kosovo have all identified OSCE as a potential partner of UNDP. These possibilities were confirmed at the OSCE conference on small arms and light weapons, held in Vienna in February 2002. Discussions are under way on possible cooperation in Georgia as well.

34. Other areas of cooperation include UNDP and OSCE agreement to collaborate on the Parliamentary Conference, which is being organized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to take place in Almaty in October 2002. On the Roma issue, consultations are under way with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on the scope of cooperation.

35. At the country level, close cooperation between UNDP and the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine, has entered its sixth year. Discussions are under way on expanding cooperation to new areas such as support for the Ombudsman's Office and the Roma issue. The OSCE and UNDP have developed and initiated implementation of an integrated programme for the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia, aiming at stabilization of the situation through long-term preventive development. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNDP assistance in judicial reform, gender issues, and peace-building in south Serbia all involved cooperation with OSCE. In Kosovo, cooperation ranged from efforts to mobilize youth in promoting the culture of peace and consultations on the preparation of UNDP Early Warning Reports, to a joint effort aimed at promoting an independent media. Close working contacts between respective field presences or offices, including the regular exchange of information and joint discussion of upcoming events, have been maintained as well.

G. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

36. Regular consultations have been pursued between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the various OSCE

institutions. Liaison officers attached to the UNHCR Branch Office in Vienna have facilitated the information flow and made important contributions to joint initiatives. In addition to a number of regional and local events in the OSCE region, UNHCR has made contributions to tripartite high-level and target-oriented meetings, the OSCE Ministerial Council and Human Dimension meetings. The events of 11 September gave rise to complementary efforts by both organizations to address human security and protection issues raised by the debate on terrorism, and in response to the increased attention to human trafficking through regional and subregional events. Renewed focus on cooperation to reduce and prevent statelessness has included working contacts with the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities. OSCE hosted an inter-agency consultation of heads of field missions of UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Council of Europe, which led to inter-agency meetings in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

37. In the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, there have been expert consultations with Governments and non-governmental organizations, Government cross-border dialogue and capacity-building initiatives in support of comprehensive approaches in asylum and migration management. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, UNHCR cooperation has included joint efforts to reach out to civil society and internally displaced persons on issues of statelessness and citizenship and registration or privatization that affect refugees and internally displaced persons. In Azerbaijan, UNHCR and OSCE closely cooperate on legislation regarding non-governmental organizations and full implementation of the national citizenship law adopted in 1998. Together with its United Nations partners, UNHCR maintains contingency preparedness for return in case of a political settlement of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Both organizations have been cooperating actively in promoting a temporary asylum regime for Russian asylum-seekers originating from Chechnya, Russian Federation. In Georgia, meetings of the Joint Control Commission for the Georgia-Ossetia conflict, of which UNHCR is a partner, have renewed the dialogue among representatives of the Georgian Government, South Ossetia, the Russian Federation and North Ossetia-Alania to promote solutions and build confidence among the parties. OSCE has been supportive of the United Nations-led peace process on Abkhazia, where UNHCR increased its assistance in 2001. In the Russian Federation, UNHCR exchanges information with the OSCE Assistance Group for Chechnya on the protection of internally displaced persons and returnees and on humanitarian assistance issues. UNHCR is carrying out a joint training event with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for the judiciary in Chechnya on international human rights law and the guiding principles on internally displaced persons.

38. Cooperation between UNHCR and OSCE in the five countries of Central Asia includes regular discussions and exchanges of views. Periodic seminars on human rights and refugee law are jointly financed by the two agencies. In Kazakhstan, UNHCR and OSCE agreed to organize joint initiatives on legislative reforms, the strengthening of civil society and potentially in the training of civil servants. In Kyrgyzstan, the two organizations share information on political developments, particularly in the south where OSCE recently opened an office, and continue to organize joint projects such as the annual "summer course on human rights". In Tajikistan, following the hand-over by UNHCR of reintegration activities, OSCE, in close coordination with UNHCR, is engaged in the monitoring of the human rights of returnees. There has also been close collaboration in specific cases, such as the expulsion of Tajiks from Uzbekistan in early 2001. In Turkmenistan, collaboration extends to cooperative initiatives to promote refugee law. A particularly sensitive human rights situation in Uzbekistan tends to take priority over refugee issues on the agenda of OSCE and the Government. Cooperation between UNHCR and OSCE is thus limited, although mutual support is extended whenever needed.

39. In the countries of south-eastern Europe, UNHCR participates actively in the OSCE-chaired Friends of Albania initiative. OSCE has been cooperating with UNHCR, the Government of Albania and other organizations in implementing the pre-screening procedures for detained foreigners since they were launched in 2001. In the Republic of Moldova, UNHCR monitors and supports the human dimension of issues linked to displacement and its prevention, in addition to the pursuit of its mandated activities. While having handed over operational activities to UNDP, UNHCR continues to monitor the integration and access to citizenship of the Tartars, formerly deported peoples returning to Crimea, Ukraine. The OSCE High

Commissioner for National Minorities participates in the inter-agency framework established for this question.

40. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, close working contacts between the two organizations have developed in support of re-integration and to improve the treatment of Albanian minority communities in southern Serbia. Other areas of activity include legal reform with an impact on asylum-seekers and refugees, training activities on human rights and asylum issues, the prevention of trafficking in human beings, and the promotion of conditions for the return of displaced and refugee populations to Kosovo, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, especially as regards property rights. Cooperation in Kosovo covers a range of issues related to the protection of minority communities and the return of internally displaced persons. Both organizations have continued to produce joint assessment reports on the situation of ethnic minorities in Kosovo. These assessments are a key point of reference for Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with the situation of minorities and their return. Cooperation has also been extended to property rights, gender-related issues, the rule of law and the judiciary and the trafficking in human beings. The principal focus of cooperation in Bosnia is the implementation of the legislative framework and establishment of practices to facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees to their pre-war homes and to enable returnees to reclaim their property. Cooperation between OSCE and UNHCR in Croatia emphasizes issues affecting the return of refugees and internally displaced persons such as property restitution, tenancy rights, the monitoring of judicial procedures on war crimes, the security of returnees and the promotion of a framework for the protection of minorities. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNHCR works closely with OSCE in monitoring the situation of returnees, particularly in identifying continuing obstacles to return and the action necessary to overcome them, while interacting with the Government on issues of confidence-building. OSCE and UNHCR also enjoyed significant cooperation during the drafting of the Law on Amnesty, with OSCE giving full support to the position of UNHCR on specific aspects of the Law. Both institutions have supported the establishment of a Roma Refugee Committee. UNHCR has also supported the OSCE initiative to establish a media desk in Tetovo, which aims to promote multi-ethnic cooperation among journalists. In Montenegro, UNHCR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights have focused on empowerment of the Roma community and capacity-building for non-governmental organizations, as well as the training of the judiciary, the police and civil society.

H. United Nations Children's Fund

41. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has collaborated with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and with OSCE field missions in a number of areas for the promotion and protection of the rights of children and women. To address the problem of children in armed conflict in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic region, UNICEF has advocated the strengthening of OSCE policies and programmes in support of children's rights, with an emphasis on those affected by armed conflicts. UNICEF participated in various meetings organized by OSCE on the development of their draft policy paper on the promotion and protection of the rights, interests and welfare of the child, in particular of children affected by armed conflict. The two organizations collaborated on the promotion and monitoring of children's rights in many countries, including Albania, Armenia and the United Nations-administered province of Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the Russian Federation, OSCE and UNICEF collaborated in the area of school rehabilitation and the distribution of materials as part of the emergency programme in the northern Caucasus.

42. UNICEF has developed very close collaboration with the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, particularly within the context of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe Task Force on prevention of trafficking in human beings. Within this Task Force, UNICEF is the lead agency for awareness raising. Since July 2001, UNICEF, OHCHR and OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights have collaborated on and jointly funded an assessment of the situation and a mapping out of responses to trafficking in persons in south-east Europe. Their report summarizes the overall situation and gives an inventory of existing regional and

country-level anti-trafficking activities by Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations, provides an analysis of the victim assistance system in the region and makes recommendations for further action. Other examples of collaboration include Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the two organizations worked on developing monitoring and referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking in children. UNICEF is the lead agency for juvenile justice within the human rights Task Force chaired by OSCE and is closely working with OSCE and other Government and non-governmental partners to develop a comprehensive strategy. Juvenile justice is also an area of collaboration between the two organizations in the province of Kosovo. In Armenia, OSCE and UNICEF supported an IOM study on trafficking in women and children from that country. In Tajikistan, OSCE and UNICEF supported a Government conference which resulted in the creation of a national commission for child protection.

43. The UNICEF Regional Office has participated in conferences organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on Roma and Sinti issues, contributing to the deliberations and providing resource materials on the rights of children and women. UNICEF also presented recommendations on strengthening OSCE efforts in the area of children's rights during the 2001 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. UNICEF and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights also joined forces to conduct the 35-country "Young Voices" opinion poll of children and young people in Europe and Central Asia to gather the views of children aged between 9 and 17 on a wide range of issues. The overall objective of this survey was to strengthen democratic culture by taking into account the views of children and young persons in decision-making and promoting their meaningful participation in society.

I. World Food Programme

44. The World Food Programme (WFP) has continued mutually beneficial cooperation with OSCE in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially since the OSCE civil registration campaign provided updated population figures to WFP for use in its programming for the first quarter of 2002. The OSCE contribution to stabilizing Government structures in the province, and to improving overall conditions, has led to appropriate conditions for WFP to phase out its presence at the end of June 2002.

J. International Organization for Migration

45. The International Organization for Migration, in cooperation with OSCE, has dealt mainly with elections and trafficking in persons. OSCE and IOM have enjoyed long-standing cooperation on absentee voting since 1996, first in Bosnia and Herzegovina and subsequently in Kosovo.

46. With regard to trafficking in persons in the framework of the Task Force on trafficking in human beings of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, IOM is responsible for coordinating return and reintegration assistance. Two other areas of concern are victim protection and awareness raising. The IOM Kosovo Direct Assistance Programme for Trafficked Women addresses the needs of women trafficked to or through Kosovo. Standard operating procedures govern cooperation between IOM, UNMIK and OSCE aimed at prevention, protection and prosecution and at strengthening local institutions accordingly. In Albania, OSCE and IOM cooperate to address issues of trafficking in persons, including the referral of victims through OSCE field offices. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM and OSCE cooperate on a regular basis on counter-trafficking activities and promote legislative review and reform with regard to the smuggling of and trafficking in persons. Within the OSCE Human Dimension cooperation process in Armenia, IOM coordinates a working group on gender and trafficking. Since 1998, IOM and OSCE have cooperated extensively in the field of counter-trafficking in Ukraine. In Kyrgyzstan, IOM and OSCE have conducted jointly funded research on trafficking in persons, in particular women and children.

47. Other areas of cooperation include follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues, training in Poland of different border guard groups, and the organization in October 2001 in Almaty of a workshop on cross-border cooperation and the development of migration legislation. IOM also participates regularly in OSCE forum activities and is associated with the tripartite United Nations, OSCE and Council of Europe consultative mechanism.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

48. Specific efforts have been made to improve consultation and cooperation in the field and between the respective headquarters. These steps have resulted in enhanced coordination, with the aim of making better use of the resources of the international community in the interests of the countries being assisted. Currently, the United Nations retains the lead in efforts in Abkhazia, Georgia, and in Tajikistan, while OSCE has the lead in the Republic of Moldova, South Ossetia, Georgia, and in the resolution of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The United Nations and OSCE should continue to practise a division of labour based on the comparative advantages of the two organizations.